(iii) Support to commercial production (compost) units;

(iv) Training programme and field demonstrations;

(v) Market development and promotion.

Agriculture Research and Education Centres

345. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1343, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of basic infrastructure provided by the agriculture research and education centres; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to upgrade these research centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Basic infrastructure is not provided by the Agriculture Research and Education Centres to any other unit.

(b) To upgrade these research centres, support is provided mainly through Plan and Non-Plan grants for infrastructure and scientific and technical inputs.

Insurance cover for yield and price fluctuations

346. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new insurance cover for yield and price fluctuations for farmers under a single policy;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) by when it is likely to be put in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to cover the two critical components of a farmer's income, namely yield and price through a single insurance scheme, the Government of India proposes to implement a Pilot Project on Farm Income Insurance Scheme